

American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth Grant (ARPHCY I)

Updated: Aug. 2, 2021

The South Dakota Department of Education (DOE) is announcing a grant competition to receive funding under the American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth I (ARPHCY I) program.

The federal ARPHCY I grant is intended to distribute funds to public school districts with students experiencing homelessness and to help districts identify students that may be experiencing homelessness, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Awards will be made based on need, funds available, and number of applications.

The amount of funds available in South Dakota is \$469,206. Local education agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply based on the number of their identified homeless students.

# of students	Potential grant amounts
1-49	Up to: \$30,000
50-199	Up to: \$50,000
200+	Up to: \$125,000

In order to apply for the ARPHCY I grant for the time period July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024, a Notice of Intent to Apply must be submitted. The Notice of Intent to Apply must be received by DOE by Aug. 25, 2021. An application form will be provided to the contact listed in the Notice of Intent to Apply.

Background

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. The ARP Act included an \$800 million reservation within the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to support the specific and urgent needs of homeless children and youth in recognition of the extraordinary impact of COVID-19 pandemic on students experiencing homelessness.

DOE received funds through the [Federal American Rescue Plan Act - Homeless Children and Youth \(ARPHCY I\)](#) grant to support students experiencing homelessness. Funding is divided into two disbursements.

- The intent of the first disbursement, ARPHCY I, is to distribute funds to LEAs that have high needs and high numbers of identified students experiencing homelessness and to do so in a competitive manner.
- The second disbursement, ARPHCY II, is a formula grant based on Title I funding and number of reported homeless students. More information on ARPHCY II will be provided at a later date.

Suggested uses of the ARP-HCY I at the LEA level are: increasing outreach and identification of students experiencing homelessness, enhancing family engagement services, providing

academic coaching or tutoring and enrichment opportunities, providing summer learning opportunities, and providing additional transportation options. These funds are available for homeless children preschool through high school graduation.

All LEAs are required to comply with the McKinney Vento Act, of which the intent is to ensure all children and youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence receive access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a preschool education, as provided to other children and youth.

Eligibility

All South Dakota public schools are eligible to apply for funding based on the total number of students experiencing homelessness identified using the higher of either SY 2018-19 or 2019-20 certified data as reported in Infinite Campus.

Overall, costs must be “reasonable and necessary” and align with the purpose of, and other requirements in the [Education for Homeless Children and Youth statute](#). LEAs also should consider the extraordinary impact of the pandemic on students experiencing homelessness when making decisions about how to use funds.

Allowable Uses

Funding under the ARPHCY I program must adhere to the allowable uses of funds described in Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act. Under section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Act, LEAs may use subgrant funds for activities that support the purposes of the program, including:

- (1) The provision of tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youths.
- (2) The provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (such as educational programs for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities, and English learners, services provided under title I of the ESEA, 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq., or similar State or local programs, programs in career and technical education, and school nutrition programs).
- (3) Professional development and other activities for educators and specialized instructional support personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the needs of homeless children and youths, the rights of such children and youths under this part, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths.
- (4) The provision of referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.
- (5) The provision of assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students under section 722(g)(4)(A) of the McKinney-Vento Act, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under section 732(g)(3) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- (6) The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, for preschool-aged homeless children.

- (7) The provision of services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, particularly homeless children and youths who are not enrolled in school, in public school programs and services provided to nonhomeless children and youths.
- (8) The provision for homeless children and youths of before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities.
- (9) If necessary, the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school, including birth certificates, immunization or other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.
- (10) The provision of education and training to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youths, and other activities designed to increase the meaningful involvement of parents and guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of such children or youths.
- (11) The development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in section 722(g)(5) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- (12) The provision of specialized instructional support services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services.
- (13) Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.
- (14) The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any nonschool facilities made available under section 723(a)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act to provide services under section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- (15) The provision of school supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.
- (16) The provision of other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.

Activities under ARP Homeless I may include any expenses necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, or educational success of homeless children and youth in order to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities, such as:

- providing wraparound services (which could be provided in collaboration with and/or through contracts with community-based organizations, and could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services);
- purchasing needed supplies (e.g., personal protective equipment, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items);
- providing transportation to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities;
- purchasing cell phones or other technological devices for unaccompanied, homeless children and youth to enable such children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities;
- providing access to reliable, high-speed internet for students through the purchase of internet-connected devices/equipment, mobile hotspots, wireless service plans, or

- installation of Community Wi-Fi Hotspots (e.g., at homeless shelters), especially in underserved communities;
- paying for short-term, temporary housing (e.g., a few days in a motel) when such emergency housing is the only reasonable option for COVID-safe temporary housing and when necessary to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school); and
 - providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate fully in school activities.